

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Big Rapids 49307

www.ferris.edu



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## About Ferris State University

Ferris State University has been the fastest-growing public university in Michigan over the last decade, with more than 14,533 students enrolled in classes on the main campus in Big Rapids or at its 19 satellite and off-campus sites throughout Michigan, such as the Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University in Grand Rapids. Ferris attracts students from every county in Michigan, many of whom remain in the state after graduating.

Founded in 1884, Ferris is distinguished by its strong heritage of opportunity and focus on providing a professional education that links theory to practice. More than 180 programs, ranging from associate to doctoral degrees, are offered through eight degree-granting academic colleges at Ferris: Allied Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Services, Engineering Technology, Kendall College of Art and Design, and Michigan College of Optometry and Pharmacy.

The majority of Ferris' offerings are tailored to specific, in-demand professions and align directly with occupations that are expected to experience growth across the country, in such categories as business, finance and management; administrative and clerical; computer science and engineering; social services; education and training; healthcare and healthcare technology and support; protective services; and construction, production, and repair. Several of Ferris State's unique degree offerings are not available at other universities in the state, region or nation.

Ferris has the fewest number of large classes among Michigan's 15 public universities, with only one percent of classes having more than 50 students. This offers more direct contact with faculty, more hands-on learning and experimentation and greater student engagement. More than 50 percent of Ferris classes have fewer than 20 students, and the student-to-faculty ratio is 16-to-1. Full-time tenure-track faculty members with experience in their respective fields teach the majority of classes, providing real-world relevance in the learning environment. Advisory boards further ensure a current, relevant curriculum to prepare graduates with skills that give them an advantage in the professional world.

More than any other institution in the state, Ferris has reached out to Michigan community colleges, creating partnerships on 17 campuses and expanding online offerings. As a result, Ferris has become a transfer school of choice for students, facilitating expansion of their first two years of study at off-campus sites into four-year university degrees. Ferris enrolls the largest number of off-campus students at the Applied Technology Center through its partnership with Grand Rapids Community College.

Ferris State has completed several new facilities, such as the state-of-the-art Michigan College of Optometry building and attractive East Campus Apartment Suites, both situated on the main campus in Big Rapids, as well as a facility on Grand Rapids' Medical Mile for third- and fourth-year Pharmacy students. Classroom renovations and improvements to Ferris' popular Rock Café dining facility add to the vibrancy of the university's 880-acre main campus, which already boasts its state-of-the-art Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education; the Granger Center, a building with visible mechanical systems, such as geothermal heating and cooling, for HVACR students; and the National Elastomer Center, a specialized center for studying plastics and rubber technology.

Ferris is the only university in Michigan named after its founders, Woodbridge Nathan Ferris (two-term Michigan governor and United States senator) and Helen Gillespie Ferris. Founded as the privately owned Big Rapids Industrial School, Ferris became a state institution in 1950, undergoing several name changes before becoming Ferris State University in 1987. The Ferris' founding philosophy of a practical, hands-on approach to education that enables students to learn practical skills for new jobs in a changing world still resonates today.

<b><i>Credit Enrollment (fall head count)</i></b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
On-campus . . . . .	11,350	14,560	14,533
Off-campus . . . . .	2,409	2,383	2,203
Online . . . . .	622	793	830